



Project Action Area

Action Area

What is the action area?

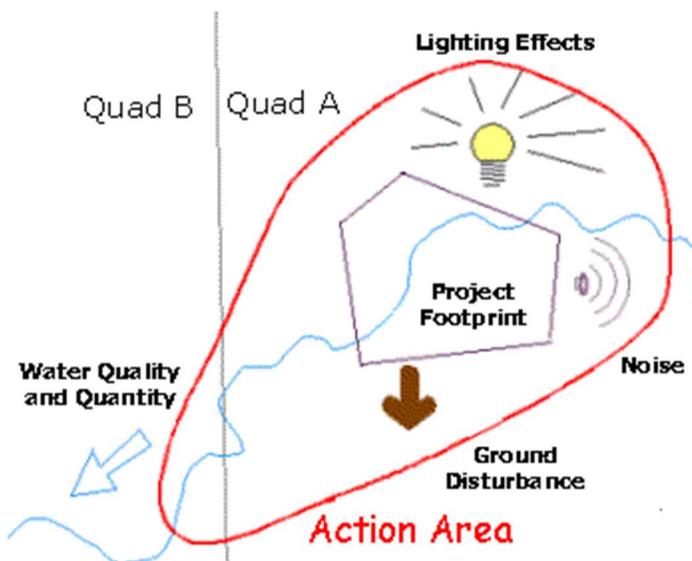
The action area is defined by regulation as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action (50 CFR §402.02). This analysis is not limited to the "footprint" of the action nor is it limited by the Federal action agency's authority. Rather, it is a biological determination of the reach of the proposed action on listed species. Subsequent analyses of the environmental baseline, effects of the action, and levels of incidental take are based upon the action area.

Action area refers to the area directly or indirectly affected by the proposed action. This area will usually be larger than the project footprint.

To determine your action area, mark the project footprint on a topo map. Identify the range of impacts such as:

1. Ground disturbance
2. Changes in water quality and quantity (both surface and underground water)
3. Air quality impacts
4. Lighting effects
5. Noise disturbance

Draw a line around all of the affected areas. This is the action area. Example:



In the diagram to the left, the project affects water quality or quantity downstream. So the applicant should obtain a species list for both Quad A and Quad B (or County A and County B).